

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 06153 01 OF 02 281815Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 06153

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, NATO, OECE, NAC, APER
SUBJECT: THREATENED STRIKE AT NATO JUNE 30

PARIS FOR OECD

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RPM

DEPARTMENT FOR ISA (EUR/NATO)
1. THE STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE THREAT OF WORK STOPPAGES
OR STRIKES IN A SECURITY ORGANIZATION EXPRESSED IN THE
JUNE 27 COUNCIL MEETING (USNATO 6135) HAS GALVANIZED THE
IS AND ALLIES INTO TAKING STEPS TO INSURE THAT THE EFFECTS
ON NATO HEADQUARTERS OF ANY WORK STOPPAGE WILL BE MINIMAL
AND THAT ESSENTIAL SERVICES WILL BE MAINTAINED. IN ADDI-
TION, THE STRENGTH AND FIRMNESS OF THE STATEMENTS OPPOSED
TO THE THREATS OF THE NATO STAFF ASSOCIATION HAVE APPARENT-
LY COLLED THE ARDOR OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATION AND MAY RE-
SULT IN A CANCELLATION OF THE THREATENED STRIKE.

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PAGE 02 NATO 06153 01 OF 02 281815Z

2. INTERNATIONAL STAFF: IN THE ABSENCE OF SYG LUNS AND
DEPUTY SYG PANSA, WHO ARE ATTENDING UK JUBILEE FLEET RE-
VIEW JUNE 28, VAN CAMPEN (DIRECTEUR DU CABINET) ASSURED
CHARGE THAT STEPS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION TO INSURE THE
CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES. MEANWHILE, THE NATO
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (SEKERIS) HAS INFORMED US THAT THE
SYG HAS, AND IS PREPARED TO USE, EMERGENCY POWERS TO RE-

QUISITION THE SERVICES OF ANY EMPLOYEE IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT ESSENTIAL NATO MEETINGS (NAC, DPC AND EXECUTIVE AD HOC GROUP) CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT HINDERANCE.

3. THE NATO DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL (VILLA-LOBOS) TOLD US THAT HE PLANS TO REQUEST SUPPORT FROM THE ALLIED DELEGATIONS AND MILITARY MISSIONS TO REWH PLACE STRIKING IS PERSONNEL AND PERFORM ESSENTIAL TASKS IF NECESSARY. VILLA-LOBOS IS ALSO PROPOSING THAT LUNS DOCK THE PAY OF IS MEMBERS WHO DO NOT REPORT FOR WORK OR REFUSE TO WORK. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE DEPENDENCE ON THE INTERPRETERS (WHO ARE AMONG THE MOST MILITANT EMPLOYEES IN THEIR DEMANDS), VILLA-LOBOS IS CONSIDERING REQUESTING THAT NATO MEETINGS BE CONDUCTED IN ONE LANGUAGE.

4. MILITARY COMMITTEE AND IMS: AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY ACTION THAT WOULD DEGRADE THE OPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS) AND HAS PROPOSED THE REPLACEMENT OF STRIKERS BY MILITARY PERSONNEL, IF NECESSARY, TO INSURE THAT THE WORK OF THE IMS CAN PROCEED WITH ONLY A POSSIBLE DEGRADATION OF THE TIMELINESS AND QUALITY OF IMS SECRETARIAL WORK AND A DEFERRAL OF LESSER PRIORITY WORK. THE CHAIRMAN HAS ALSO UNDERTAKEN TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, CONTROL ACCESS, AND GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE SABOTAGE DURING A STRIKE BY REPLACING NATO SECURITY GUARDS, IF NECESSARY, WITH MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM THE IMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NATO 06153 01 OF 02 281815Z

5. NATO SITUATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER: THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATO SITUATION CENTER INDICATES HE FORESEES NO MAJOR PROBLEM, BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF PERSONNEL IN THE SITCEN AND COMMCEN ARE UNIFORMED MILITARY PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, DURING A STRIKE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO TERMINATE DAILY CURRENT INTELLIGENCE SUMMARIES TO NATIONAL CAPITALS, IF STRIKING CIVILIAN TYPISTS ARE NOT REPLACED BY MILITARY TYPISTS.

6. SECURITY AND ACCESS: THE HEAD OF NATO HQ SECURITY BELIEVES HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH HIS SECURITY GUARRB IN MAINTAINING THE REQUIRED FORCE. HE NOTES THAT LUNS IS OPPOSED TO CLOSING ANY NORMALLY-USED ENTRANCES TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS BUILDING. HE BELIEVES HE CAN SATISFY STRIKE PARTICIPATION BY HIS GUARDS BY RELEASING UP TO TWELVE WHO PERFORM THE SECONDARY TASK OF ESCORTING VISITORS AND TURNING THIS TASK OVER TO NATIONAL DELEGATIONS. IN EXTREMIS, THE BELGIAN GENDARMERIE AND ARMED FORCES ARE AVAILABLE IN ADDITION TO OTHER NATIONAL MILITARY GROUPS LOCATED NEARBY.

7. CURRENT STATUS OF STRIKE PLANS: THOUGH THE STAFF ASSOCIATION STILL MAINTAINS IT WILL STRIKE JUNE 30 IF ITS DEMANDS FOR A 100 PERCENT COST-OF-LIVING PAY ADJUSTMENT ARE NOT

MET, THERE ARE STRONG INFORMAL INDICATIONS AT NATO THAT THE STAND OF THE US AND CANADIAN PERMREPS AT THE JUNE 27 COUNCIL MEETING HAD A NOTICEABLE COOLING EFFECT ON THE STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. CCG CHAIRMAN MASSBERG HAS REPORTED THAT STAFF ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT VAN VALKENBERG WAS "KNOCKED DOWN" BY THE FORCE OF THE STATEMENTS IN THE COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION TO A STRIKE. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT MEMBERS OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATION ARE SPLIT AS TO THE WISDOM OF STRIKING. SOME REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT THE STAFF ASSOCIATION SHOULD LEAVE THE THREAT OF A STRIKE HANGING OVER THE COUNCIL, BUT NOT CARRY OUT ANY SUCH THREAT UNTIL THE SUMMER

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PAGE 01 NATO 06153 02 OF 02 281818Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 06153

HOLIDAYS ARE OVER (E. G., AFTER AUGUST).

8. ACCORDING TO DAVID KYD, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICE AND A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATION, IF A STRIKE DOES OCCUR IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON A PIECEMEAL BASIS, I. E., ONE CATEGORY OF STAFF PERSONNEL (TRANSLATORS, OR REPRODUCTION PERSONNEL) WILL GO ON A STRIKE FOR 2 OR 3 DAYS. KYD, HOWEVER, HAS TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT "THERE WILL BE NO WORK STOPPAGE" AND THAT LUNS WILL PREVAIL IN ARGUING AGAINST SUCH A STRIKE WHEN HE MEETS THE STAFF ASSOCIATION JUNE 29. KYD BELIEVES THE SYG MAY BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE SUCCESS IN WARDING OFF A STRIKE AT THE JUNE 29 COUNCIL MEETING, BUT THAT THE STAFF ASSOCIATION WOULD STILL HAVE TO TAKE A FACE-SAVING, FORMAL VOTE NOT TO STRIKE AT A MEETING PLANNED THE MORNING OF JUNE 30.

ACCORDING TO OTHER OBSERVERS, THE VOTE AT SUCH A MEETING IS LIKELY TO GO AGAINST A STRIKE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: REPRESENTATION AT THE JUNE 24 STAFF ASSOCIATION MEETING THAT CALLED FOR THE STRIKE WAS COMPARATIVELY SMALL AND DOMINATED BY PRO-STRIKE STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, AMONG
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PAGE 02 NATO 06153 02 OF 02 281818Z

WHOM THE L GRADES (TRANSLATORS) ARE THE MOST MILITANT; AND MANY STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WERE LARGELY UNAWARE AT THE TIME OF WHAT WAS GOING ON OR DID NOT ATTEND THE MEETING. NOW THAT THE ISSUE IS HOT, HOWEVER, ATTENDANCE AT THE JUNE 30 MEETING BY LESS MILITANT STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WILL BE LARGE, THUS DILUTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE MILITANTS.

9. PRESS POLICY: IN RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS QUERIES, USNATO WOULD PLAN TO STATE ONLY THAT HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES CONTINUE UNIMPEDED. NATO SPOKESMAN DAVID KYD HAS INDICATED TO US THAT HE PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT LUNS APPROVE A SIMILAR STATEMENT FOR USE ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS IF THE STRIKE ACTUALLY OCCURS. STREATOR

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